
Adult Abuse

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides members of the Blue Ridge Fire District with guidance regarding when notification is to be made to law enforcement of suspected abuse of certain adults.

318.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to assist victims of adult abuse by making the proper notifications to those responsible for investigating these matters.

318.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Blue Ridge Fire District shall notify law enforcement when there is a reasonable basis to believe that abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult has occurred (ARS § 46-454).

For purposes of notification, abuse includes intentional infliction of physical harm, injuries caused by negligent acts or omissions, unreasonable confinement, sexual abuse, or sexual assault. Neglect is the deprivation of food, water, medication, medical services, shelter, supervision, cooling, heating, or other services necessary to maintain a vulnerable adult's minimum physical or mental health. Exploitation is the illegal or improper use of a vulnerable adult or his/her resources for another's profit or advantage (ARS § 46-451).

A vulnerable adult is an individual who is 18 years or older and unable to protect him/herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others because of a physical or mental impairment. Vulnerable adult includes an incapacitated person as defined in ARS § 14-5101 (ARS § 46-451).

318.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification should occur as soon as practicable and as follows (ARS § 46-454):

- (a) Notification to law enforcement should be made in person or by telephone.
- (b) Information provided should include, if known:
 1. The names and addresses of the adult and any persons having control or custody of the adult, if known.
 2. The adult's age and the nature and extent of the adult's vulnerability.
 3. The nature and the extent of the abuse or neglect.
 4. Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the adult's abuse or neglect.

The district Emergency Medical Services supervisor should be notified of the incident as soon as practical. A written report shall be prepared and, if requested, forwarded to law enforcement.

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If the person is being transported to a medical facility, the receiving center triage nurse or physician shall be notified of the situation upon the person's arrival.

318.4 RELEASE OF REPORTS

Information related to incidents of adult abuse or suspected adult abuse shall be confidential and may only be disclosed pursuant to state law and the Release of Records Policy (ARS § 46-454).

Requests for information about an incident referred to law enforcement should be referred to the investigating agency.